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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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TO : United States Patent and Trademark Office
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In connection with Serial No. 10/554,164:
Amendment (in response to November 17, 2006 Office Action).

Due Date: February 20, 2007

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Akira KUROME, et al.

Serial No.: 10/554,164

Group Art Unit: 2859

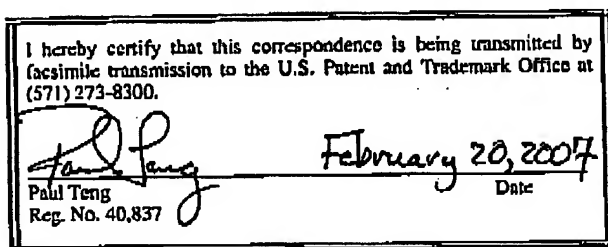
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2006
in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper